From:

Ken Dunn

To:

Microsoft ATR

Date:

11/16/01 4:33pm

Subject:

Settlement.

This settlement is still too much to impose on a private enterprise. This whole suit never should have been filed. Microsoft is not a monopoly. There are several alternatives including linux, OS/2, Solaris for X86, Dr.DOS (yes, it does still exist despite claims to the contrary by the prosecution), PC-DOS (I just bought the 2000 version from IBM last month). This suit wrongfully damaged the global economy to an extent that it may not recover for 5-8 years. As an independent software developer I (as well as most others in my field) rely and depend on various operating system features and functions to be available in a given version of an operating system. Microsoft has provided these functions and regularly upgrades them through service packs and Internet Browser upgrades (this is an important example of code reuse where commonly used routines are used by multiple applications and sometimes the OS itself, a point not understood by the so-called experts that testified in this kangaroo court proceeding). Almost all third party applications that use tcp-ip networking rely on pieces of the IE Browser and require a minimum version of that Browser in order to function correctly. I have many customers who use Netscape as their Browser of choice, but have realized performance and stability improvements by keeping the IE Browser up to date. If IE had not been "bundled" with the OS it would have cost most third party developers so much as to make continued support impractical and therefore truly reduce software competition and choice for consumers. Where was the DOJ when SUN controlled the workstation market so totally that even IBM didn't even try to compete? Where was DOJ when SUN was gouging the market for 4-10 times what a competitve product would have cost, especially when a huge number of these workstations were being paid for by the taxpayers for use by the government and government contractors? The only true justice would be if Microsoft was declared not to be a monopoly and those responsible for starting this whole antitrust action to be jailed for crimes against the United States and crimes against the global economy.

A very dissatisfied customer of the DOJ, which is a true monopoly.